STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
FINANCE DIVISION

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

March 23, 2026

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
County of Wayne
Rouge Valley Sewage Disposal System Long Term Corrective Action Plan Phase 4A/5A Sanitary Sewer Inspection, Phase 2B/3B Floodplain Manhole Rehabilitation/Repair, and Phase 4C/5C Sewer Rehabilitation
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Number 6006-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a wastewater project planning document submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project planning document containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project planning document or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at Michigan.gov/SRF under “Environmental Project Reviews.” The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted via email to EGLE-WIFFS@Michigan.gov or to me at EGLE, Finance Division, Stabenow Building, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. We will not take any action on this project planning document for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider all comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan M. Berman, State Revolving Fund Compliance Specialist, at 517-897-3634, by email at BermanJ@Michigan.gov, or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dan Beauchamp

Dan Beauchamp, Section Manager
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
517-388-3380

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
County of Wayne
Rouge Valley Sewage Disposal System
Environmental Assessment
March 2026

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant:	County of Wayne
Address:	400 Monroe Street, Detroit, Michigan, 48226
Authorized Representative:	Elmeka N. Steele, Esq., Deputy Director, Wayne County Department of Public Services
Project Number:	6006-01

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Rouge Valley Sewage Disposal System (RVSDS) transports wastewater that is collected from 12 communities within the County of Wayne (Wayne County) and one municipality located in Oakland County to the regional wastewater collection system and Water Resource Recovery Facility owned by the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and operated by the Great Lakes Water Authority. The RVSDS is owned by Wayne County and operated by its Department of Public Services. Land use within the RVSDS varies by each of the communities with much of the area already developed. The RVSDS service area population is expected to remain stagnant, increasing slightly by an estimated 3.5 percent between approximately 493,796 people in 2023 to approximately 511,119 people by 2050.

The RVSDS collection system consists of two major interceptor corridors, the Middle Rouge and Lower Rouge Interceptors. The RVSDS includes over 93 miles of pipe originally built in 1930, with additions in the 1960's and 1980's. The sewers within the system range between 30-inch and 108-inch diameter pipes. These interceptor arms serve a network of smaller interceptors and trunk sewers comprised of the 13 communities within the service area. The Middle Rouge Interceptor system runs along the Middle Branch of the Rouge River from the city of Northville to the city of Dearborn Heights. The Lower Rouge Interceptor system runs along Michigan Avenue and the Lower Branch of the Rouge River from Canton Township to the city of Dearborn Heights.

The RVSDS is applying for a low interest loan from the state of Michigan's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to finance a project of two capital improvements to address sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) deficiencies within the RVSDS, manhole rehabilitation/repair and sanitary sewer rehabilitation, and sanitary sewer pipe inspections and condition assessment evaluations to update the RVSDS Asset Management Program (AMP). This Environmental Assessment addresses phase 4A/5A sanitary sewer inspection, phase 2B/3B floodplain manhole rehabilitation/repair, and phase 4C/5C sewer rehabilitation which is the entire scope of work for the project (see Figure 1-4).

The project has been allocated up to $29,850,000 in CWSRF assistance. It is expected that the typical residential customer of the RVSDS will see an estimated rate increase from nearly $5.00 to $11.00 per month over a 5-year period to service the CWSRF loan debt. Construction of the project is anticipated to begin by Fall 2026 and conclude by Spring 2028.

PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Project Need/Justification

The RVSDS has a long history of excessive inflow and infiltration (I/I) issues causing inadequate sanitary sewage transport capacity leading to residential basement back-ups and SSOs (and combined sewage overflows) into the Rouge River. The water quality violations resulted in an administrative consent order and ultimately a Long-Term Corrective Action Plan (LTCAP), from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), mandating actions to correct the violations and continue to resolve existing SSO events in compliance with EGLE's SSO policy.

The RVSDS does not currently meet EGLE's SSO policy. Periodic SSOs have been observed within the system. Multiple studies have been conducted, and assorted improvements have been implemented since 1982 with an initial comprehensive system-wide evaluation completed in 2007. This study led to the development and implementation of a Short-Term Corrective Action Plan completed in June 2012.

During the development of the LTCAP from 2012 to 2018, specific locations were identified within the RVSDS where cost-effective sanitary manhole and sewer pipe improvements remain to be done and are necessary to remediate SSOs. These LTCAP improvements will both accommodate the 25-year, 24-hour design storm event and provide better operational efficiency, structural integrity, and hydraulic capacity.

The LTCAP also contains an asset management component, requiring further sanitary sewer pipe inspections and condition assessment evaluations in the RVSDS AMP, which can identify additional future cost-effective actions to remove I/I from the system.

B. Alternatives Considered

No-action Alternative / Optimization of Existing System

Both 'No action' and 'Optimization of Existing System' are not feasible alternatives because they are unable to address the RVSDS SSOs through the LTCAP and the asset management-related needs described above or improve operational efficiency, structural integrity, and hydraulic capacity.

Regional Alternative

The project need does not translate to an alternative that would be more 'regional.' The RVSDS itself is regional by serving 13 separate communities while the LTCAP identified the SSO needs to be addressed through targeted sanitary manhole rehabilitation/repair and sewer pipe rehabilitation. The alternatives discussed and evaluated below are 'regional' since they will allow the RVSDS to continue serving a regional customer base. Thus, an additional regional alternative was not considered.

Alternative 1: LTCAP Full Implementation

Alternative 1 simultaneously implements the remaining projects currently recommended in the LTCAP to address wet weather flow (i.e., manhole rehabilitation/repair, sewer rehabilitation) by cost-effectively removing I/I from the system and completes the asset management component of the LTCAP. This alternative assumes if these efforts are all completed, they will be proven successful by performance certification to resolve the SSO issues through the LTCAP and achieve compliance with EGLE's SSO policy. 'Alternative 1: LTCAP Full Implementation' was considered further in evaluation.

Alternative 2: LTCAP Full Implementation & Two New Wet Weather Storage Facilities

Alternative 2 contains all the activities in Alternative 1 and builds new wet weather storage facilities if completion of all the RVSDS LTCAP recommended projects does not fully address SSOs in the system. This alternative extends Alternative 1 to address any capacity deficiency after full implementation of the LTCAP's I/I removal improvements. There are two (2) identified locations for new wet weather storage facilities, one at the Inkster Arm at Bell Branch with a 1.6-million-gallon (MG) capacity and the other at the Middle Rouge at the Junction Chamber (JC) 8-27 with a 4.0 MG capacity. 'Alternative 2: LTCAP Full Implementation & Two New Wet Weather Storage Facilities' was considered further in evaluation.

Alternative 3: Four New Wet Weather Storage Facilities

Alternative 3 forgoes all the activities in Alternative 1 and instead constructs new wet weather storage facilities at four (4) locations to fully address SSOs in the system. In addition to the two (2) locations for new wet weather storage facilities in Alternative 2, Inkster Arm at Bell Branch (1.6 MG capacity) and Middle Rouge at JC 8-27 (4.0 MG capacity), Alternative 3 has another two (2) locations: Middle Rouge at JC 3-16 (37.0 MG capacity) and Middle Rouge at JC 2-8 (1.5 MG capacity). 'Alternative 3: Four New Wet Weather Storage Facilities' was considered further in evaluation.

Alternative 4: Relief Sewer Interceptors & Central Storage Facility

Alternative 4 similarly excludes all the activities in Alternative 1 and in its place constructs new relief sewer interceptors to transport wet weather flows up to the design storm event to a new central storage facility. This option requires the installation of over 9 miles of new relief sewer along the Inkster Arm and Middle Rouge to the downstream end near Ford Road, and a single 43.2 MG wet weather storage facility. 'Alternative 4: Relief Sewer Interceptors & Central Storage Facility' was considered further in evaluation.

Alternative 5: Relief Sewer Interceptors & Wastewater Treatment Facility

Alternative 5 likewise excludes all the activities in Alternative 1 and as a substitute builds a new wastewater treatment facility. This option requires the same over 9 miles of new relief sewer as Alternative 4 to transport wet weather flows up to the design storm event. 'Alternative 5: Relief Sewer Interceptors & Wastewater Treatment Facility' was considered further in evaluation.

Monetary Evaluation of Principal Alternatives

A monetary evaluation of the five (5) alternatives described above was done through a total capital cost comparison. Alternatives 3, 4, and 5 were determined to be cost-prohibitive at 200 to 850 percent more expensive than alternatives 1 and 2 while lacking the cost-effective I/I removal work included in alternatives 1 and 2. In turn, alternatives 3, 4, and 5 were eliminated. Since alternative 2 contains alternative 1 in addition to the added wet weather storage, alternative 1 is the lowest cost option to remediate SSOs at less than two-thirds the cost of alternative 2. Phases 2B/3B floodplain manhole rehabilitation/repair and 4C/5C sewer rehabilitation were both previously identified within the RVSDS LTCAP and as a result, have already been accepted by EGLE's Water Resources Division (WRD) as cost-effective actions necessary to make further progress toward compliance with EGLE's SSO policy. Thus, 'Alternative 1: AMP Full Implementation' is the selected alternative.

C. Selected Alternative

The selected alternative for the project to continue AMP full implementation to address SSO deficiencies in the RVSDS through the LTCAP includes the following items:

- *Phases 4A/5A Sanitary Sewer Inspection*
  Inspection and condition assessment evaluation of approximately 200,000 lineal feet of sanitary sewer pipe ranging in size from 10- to 78-inches in diameter to update the RVSDS AMP with the required cleaning and camera videotaping.

- *Phases 2B/3B Floodplain Manhole Rehabilitation/Repair*
  An estimated 277 manhole rehabilitations/repairs within the Rouge River floodplain, addressing structural deficiencies including full replacement, chimney/cone replacement, frame replacement, full liners, new manhole covers, and site cleanup/restoration.

- *Phases 4C/5C Sewer Rehabilitation*
  Rehabilitation of approximately 20,000 lineal feet of sanitary sewer pipe ranging in size from 36- to 78-inches in diameter through cured-in-place pipe and geopolymer liner, grouting associated with lining, and site cleanup/restoration.

D. Project Cost and Implementation

The total estimated project cost is $29,850,000. Wayne County anticipated financing the project with a 20-year CWSRF loan at 2.5 percent interest. The average RVSDS residential user is expected to see an estimated user rate increase from nearly $5.00 to $11.00 per month over a 5-year period due to implementation of the project.

PROJECT IMPACTS

A. Water Quality Impacts

The project will address RVSDS SSO deficiencies through the LTCAP and not result in any significant adverse impacts to historic, cultural, or environmental factors, such as state regulated water resources of floodplains, inland lakes and streams, or wetlands. A permit for potential impacts from manhole rehabilitation/repair in the 100-year floodplain and wetlands will be required under Part 31 floodplains and Part 303 wetlands of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), 1994 PA 451, as Amended. In December 2025, EGLE's WRD received this joint permit application (JPA) which is still in review. Similarly, a permit for potential impacts from sewer rehabilitation in wetlands will be required under Part 303 wetlands of the NREPA, 1994 PA 451, as Amended. This JPA will be submitted to EGLE's WRD in March 2026. Both JPAs are expected to be issued under the general project/minor permit category. Any excavation in wetlands must include a clay cap to prevent infiltration and any impact on wetland characteristics along with a required seed mix. No permanent impacts to floodplains and wetlands are anticipated. Construction cannot begin until the permits are issued and any permit conditions must be fully implemented.

B. Construction Impacts

The project is located where sewer infrastructure already exists along the Rouge River surrounded by highly urbanized areas. The sites have all previously been disturbed by construction activities. All the work will take place in the cities of Livonia, Westland, Dearborn Heights, Dearborn, Wayne, and Inkster, and Redford Township.

It is not expected that the project will cause any interruption to RVSDS service. Bypass pumping will be utilized as necessary. No significant dewatering is anticipated.

Any cutting, trimming, or removal of potential roost trees of the federally endangered Indiana bat and Northern long-eared bat will be limited to the inactive season (October 1 to April 14) to mitigate impact on bat species. The project will not cause a loss of high-quality habitat for the federally threatened Eastern massasauga rattlesnake and any potential impact will be mitigated by use of wildlife safe materials for erosion control.

The state threatened Cup plant was identified at five locations of sewer rehabilitation. The appropriate mitigation recommended best management practices for the Cup plant will be fully implemented to prevent any potential impacts.

Anticipated potential adverse impacts are temporary in nature and include traffic, noise, dust, and soil erosion. Vehicle traffic will be maintained in accordance with requirements from local municipalities and Michigan Department of Transportation recommendations. The contractor will adhere to all local municipal noise and dust ordinances. Work hours will be limited to 7:00am to 7:00pm Mondays through Saturdays with no earlier morning work hours and no work on holidays. Work sites will be wet down to clean up dust and maintain a dust free environment during construction with no dry power brooming.

Any spoils removed will be subject to soil erosion conservation measures, under Part 91 soil erosion and sedimentation control of the NREPA, 1994 PA 451, as Amended, such as silt fencing, aggregate, and restoration as needed to properly prevent soil erosion and sediment from leaving construction areas and in accordance with requirements from local municipalities and Wayne County.

C. Secondary Impacts

The RVSDS's service area population is expected to stay stagnant, rising slightly by an estimated 3.5 percent, by 2050. The project will not increase RVSDS capacity since the construction is limited to manhole rehabilitation/repair and sanitary sewer rehabilitation to address SSO deficiencies within the system through the LTCAP. As a result, there are no adverse secondary growth impacts anticipated from the project.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Wayne County held a public meeting to discuss the project on April 25, 2024, at the Livonia Department of Public Works. The meeting was publicly advertised on April 9, 2024, on the Wayne County website. A presentation was given on the project. Comments were submitted on the project's association to the Rouge River which were all addressed. The Wayne County Board passed a resolution in support of project on July 12, 2024.

REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The project is anticipated to have no significant adverse impacts on socioeconomic, cultural, or environmental factors. Minor construction impacts will be temporary and mitigated with sound construction practices and adherence to permit requirements. The project will address SSO deficiencies within the RVSDS through the LTCAP and update the AMP while also improving operational efficiency, structural integrity, and hydraulic capacity.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Jonathan M. Berman, State Revolving Fund Compliance Specialist
Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957
Telephone: 517-897-3634
Email: Bermanj@Michigan.gov

Figure 1 – Location Map of RVSDS

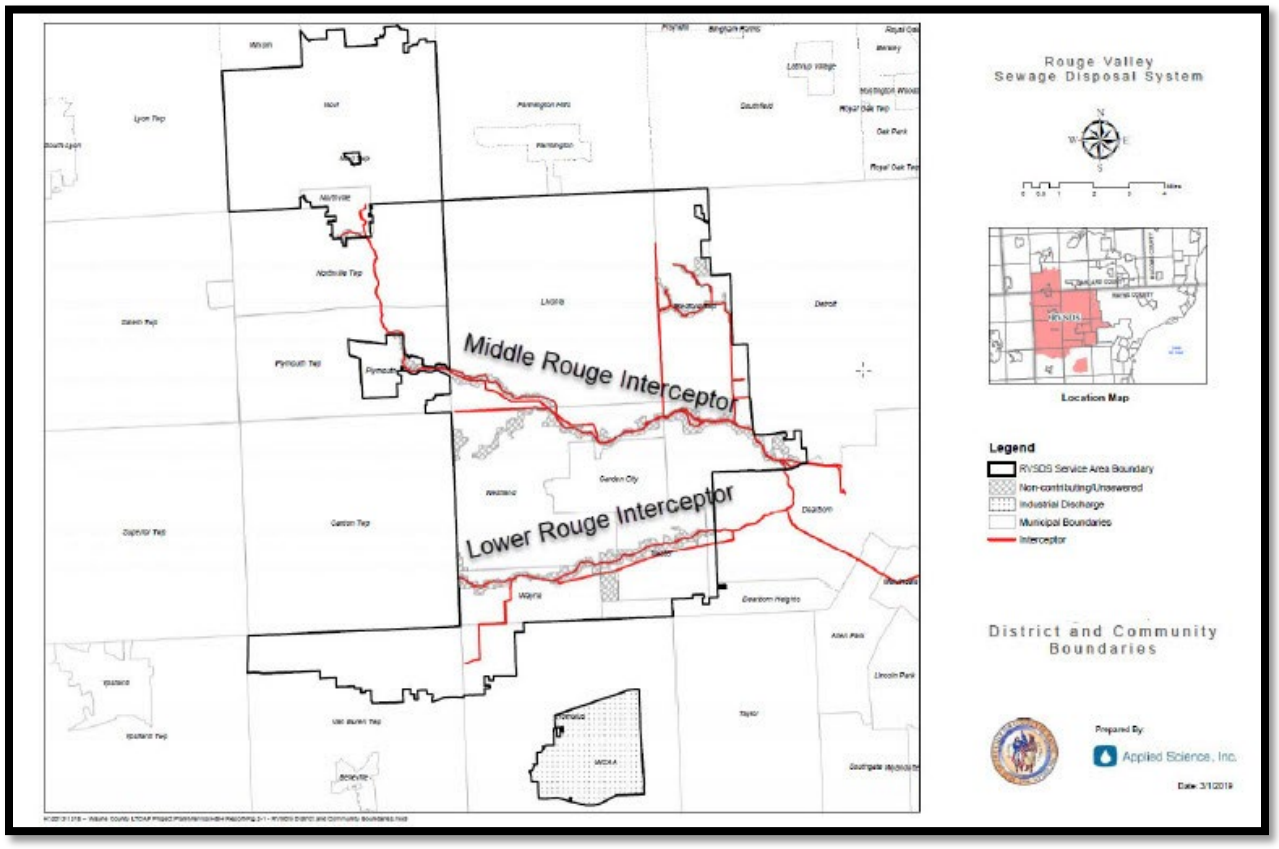

Figure 2 – Phase 4A/5A Sanitary Sewer Inspection

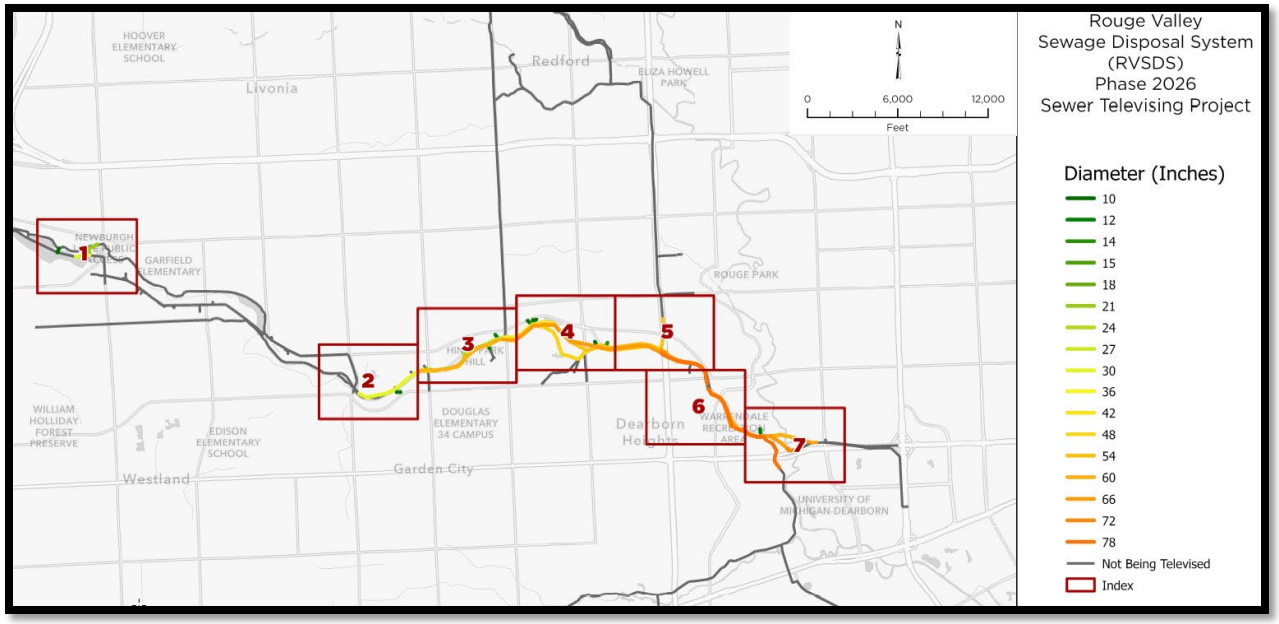

Figure 3 – Phase 2B/3B Floodplain Manhole Rehabilitation/Repair

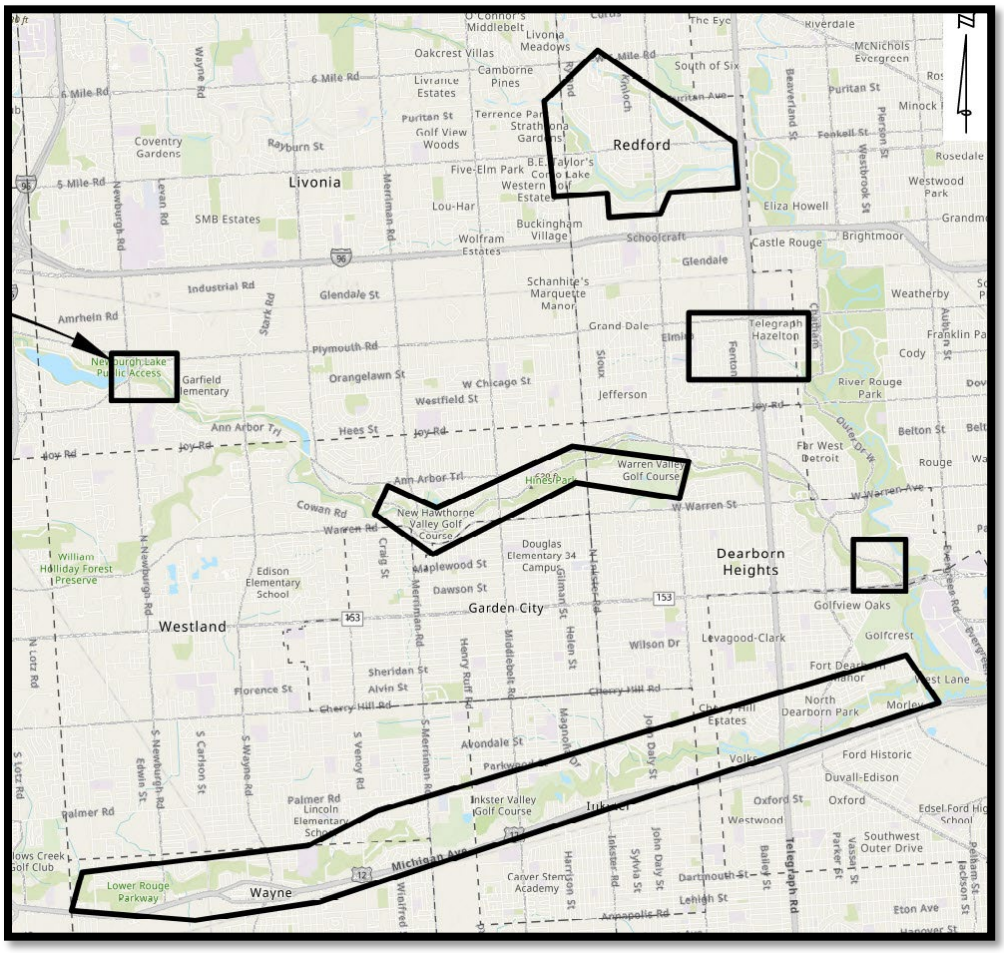

Figure 4 – Phase 4C/5C Sewer Rehabilitation